

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method of producing a ~~high~~ gloss exterior finish on a hearing aid ear shell, the ear shell having a vent, comprising the steps of:

- (a) manufacturing a hearing aid ear shell by stereolithographic processes; then
- (b) coating the ear shell with [[a]] UV-curable substance, creating a new layer of UV-curable substance;
- (c) permitting the UV-curable substance to drain off the ear shell, leaving a thin an uncured layer on the ear shell;
- (d) exposing the ear shell to UV light to cure the ~~thin~~ uncured layer;
- (e) removing any excess of the UV-curable substance from step (c); and
- (f) exposing the ear shell to UV light a second time; and,
- (f) ~~pre sizing the ear shell thickness to account for increased thickness added by steps (a) through (e).~~

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the UV-curable substance further comprises a photo-curable polymer.

3. (canceled)

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step (d) is performed by rinsing the ear shell in an alcohol bath.

5. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein the step (d) is performed with exposure of the ear shell to ultrasound in the alcohol bath.

6. (currently amended) A method of producing a ~~high~~ gloss exterior finish on a hearing aid ear shell, the ear shell having a vent, comprising the steps of:

- (a) pre-sizing the ear shell thickness to account for increased thickness added by steps ~~(b) through (f)~~ (c) through (g);
- (b) manufacturing a hearing aid ear shell by stereolithographic processes; then
- (c) without removing UV-curable substance left on the ear shell, coating the ear shell with a UV-curable substance, creating a new layer of UV-curable substance;
- (d) permitting the UV-curable substance to drain off the ear shell, leaving ~~a thin~~ an uncured layer on the ear shell;
- (e) exposing the ear shell to UV light to cure the ~~thin~~ uncured layer;
- (f) removing any excess of the UV-curable substance from step (d); and
- (g) exposing the ear shell to UV light a second time.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the UV-curable substance further comprises a photo-curable polymer.

8. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the step ~~[(e)]~~ (f) is performed by rinsing the ear shell in an alcohol bath.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step ~~[(e)]~~ (f) is performed with exposure of the ear shell to ultrasound in the alcohol bath.

10. (currently amended) A method of producing a ~~high~~ gloss exterior finish on a hearing aid ear shell, the ear shell having a vent, comprising the steps of:

- (a) pre-sizing the ear shell thickness to account for increased thickness added by steps ~~(b) through (f)~~ (c) through (g);
- (b) manufacturing a hearing aid ear shell by stereolithographic processes; then
- (c) without removing photo-curable polymer left on the ear shell, coating the ear shell with a photo-curable polymer, creating a new layer of photo-curable polymer;
- (d) permitting the photo-curable polymer to drain off the ear shell, leaving ~~a thin~~ an uncured layer on the ear shell;
- (e) exposing the ear shell to UV light to cure the ~~thin~~ uncured layer;
- (f) removing any excess of the photo-curable polymer; and
- (g) exposing the ear shell to UV light a second time.

11. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step ~~[(e)]~~ (f) is performed by rinsing the ear shell in an alcohol bath.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step ~~[(e)]~~ (f) is performed with exposure of the ear shell to ultrasound in the alcohol bath.

13. (new) The method of claim 2, wherein the photo-curable polymer is the same as that used during stereolithography.